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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for Sunday, March 25, 2018

Sixth Sunday of Lent

Lectionary Year B

Scripture: [Mark 11:1-11](#) or [John 12:12-16](#) [**Summary:** *Jesus Exceeds Expectations*]

Supplies Needed: A tennis ball or other type of ball that bounces and can be held (and caught!) with one hand

ASK (a.k.a. *The On-Ramp*)

- Good morning!
- [*Show tennis ball*] Can you tell me what this is? (a tennis ball)
- And if I drop it from up here [*hold ball up high*] what do you think – what do you expect – the ball will do? (fall; bounce)
- How high do you think – do you expect – the ball to bounce?
- [*hold hand above ground.*] This high? Higher? [*move hand up*] Like up here?
- OK -- let's find out what happens when I drop it...1....2....3...DROP!
- [*Drop the ball but then **catch it** (most likely with your other hand) before it hits the ground*]
- Whoa! Did the ball bounce like you expected it to? (NOOO!)
- Why not? (Because you caught it!)
- How do you feel about this thing that didn't happen even though you expected it to happen?

TELL (a.k.a. *The Freeway*)

- A word I used a lot, just a minute ago, was the word, "expected."
- To "expect" something or have "expectations" about something means we have thoughts and feelings about how something *should* happen.

- One problem with expecting something, though, is that things don't always happen like we thought they were going to happen -- like with this tennis ball.
- When expectations are not met, we might feel upset or cheated or sad and let down.
- I bring this up because the crowd that surrounded Jesus in today's scripture story was expecting certain things from Jesus.
- They expected Jesus to be their next king, which is why they were having a parade for him.
- But guess what!? That's *not* what Jesus was going to do or become.
- And that *will* upset the people, because that's not what they were expecting.

SHARE the Good News (a.k.a. *The Destination*)

- Thankfully, Jesus did not try to do the things that the crowd expected him to do.
- Instead, Jesus listened to what God was telling him to do and then Jesus did those things.
- And because Jesus did what God was telling him to do, then something happened for Jesus that is far better than what the people expected.
- Instead of becoming a king, Jesus showed us something better – Jesus showed us that the life God offers us is something that cannot be taken away, no matter what happens.
- And, when we trust God with our most important things, like Jesus did, then what God provides us is something bigger and greater than we ever expected!
- This is the good news for today. Let's pray.

CLOSING Prayer

Dear God,

Dear God,

Thank you for Jesus...

Thank you for Jesus...

...who shows us...

...who shows us...

...how to live a way...

...how to live a way...

...*your way*...

...*your way*...

...that exceeds all expectations.

...that exceeds all expectations.

Amen